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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DISTRICT HEIGHTS MAN SENTENCED
TO 57 YEARS IN BANK ROBBERIES**

GREENBELT, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Willie Lawson, age 27, of District Heights, Maryland was sentenced today by United States District Judge Alexander Williams to fifty seven years in prison for conspiracy to commit armed bank robbery, two counts of armed bank robbery and two counts of using a firearm during a crime of violence.

The firearm convictions relate to two robberies of Bank of America branch banks wherein \$15,690 was stolen on December 13, 2001 at 4821 Marlboro Pike, Capitol Heights, Maryland and \$20,112 was stolen on February 12, 2002 at 3413 Kenilworth Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. Lawson received two mandatory minimum 25 year sentences -- 50 years total -- for these firearm convictions. Lawson's sentence will not begin to run until approximately 2014 after he serves 12 years under a sentence received in 2002 for an armed bank robbery conviction in the Eastern District of Virginia.

Lawson's brother, David Smith, age 22, of District Heights, Maryland pled guilty on March 28, 2003 to conspiracy to commit armed bank robbery, two counts of armed bank robbery and one